BIOCHEMISTRY RESEARCH HONORS PROGRAM

The Biochemistry Department offers an Honors Program designed to enhance the research experience of its outstanding undergraduates. This program is distinguished from the Dean’s Scholar Program by requiring both a strong academic record and a substantial commitment to scientific research. Successful completion of the program will lead to an Honors degree in Biochemistry upon graduation and will serve as recognition of an exceptional undergraduate research experience.

Admission and Retention

Students will apply for admission to the program through the departmental Honors Coordinator. Prior to applying, the student will need to identify an Honors Research Advisor under whose guidance the student wishes to work and who has agreed to supervise the student’s undergraduate research. In order to be eligible, a student must have a GPA of 3.5 (3.33 in science-related courses, which are defined as courses in BCHM and courses in the College of Science), must have no more than 1 grade of ‘C’ or lower in BCHM courses numbered 300 or higher, and must have completed 32 credit hours applicable to the Purdue plan of study as a student at Purdue. If transferring from another college or university, the student must complete 16 credit hours at Purdue before applying for admission.

The student's application will be reviewed by the departmental Honors Coordinator and by the College of Agriculture Director of Academic Programs. Upon acceptance, the student will be notified by letter of admission to the program.

Within the first semester after admission to the Honors Program, the student is expected to develop a plan of study in cooperation with his or her mentor. Plans of study are to be submitted to the departmental Honors Coordinator for approval. While in the Honors Program, students must achieve semester grade indexes that are a minimum of 3.33. Furthermore, no more than 1 grade of ‘C’ or lower is permitted in BCHM courses numbered 300 or higher.

After admission to the program, the student must complete at least 30 credit hours (including those completed in the semester in which he or she applies for admission) in residence at Purdue.

Special Requirements

Honors students will, under the direction of their Honors Research Advisor, complete an Honors Project in biochemical research. To this end, a student will enroll, throughout their participation in the Honors Program, in BCHM 298 or BCHM 498. A minimum of 5 credit hours of BCHM 498 is required for completion of the Honors Program. In addition, the student is required to successfully complete BCHM 499, honors research (preferably during last semester at Purdue unless with written permission of Honors Research Advisor). Honors students are further required to participate in the Undergraduate Research and Poster Symposium a minimum of two times or in alternate event(s) as approved by Honors Research Advisor and departmental Honors Coordinator. The written report from BCHM 499 will be submitted to the departmental Honors Coordinator and will remain on file in the departmental library.